and wherein at least portions of the side wall of the external, non-planar cover terminate at a free, downwardly pointing edge and the housing has, where the housing upwardly facing ledge-like portions which project beyond the side wall of the housing, whereby the free downwardly pointing edge portions of the external non-planar cover oppose the projecting, upwardly facing ledge-like portions of the housing and substantially follow the contours of the projecting ledge-like portions; and

at least one key unit for user-actuation of at least one key sensor held by said housing, said key unit being held in place over said key sensor by said cover so that when said cover is released from attachment with the housing, said key unit is free to move with respect to the housing.

REMARKS

A marked-up version of the rewritten claims is attached hereto.

New Fig. 6, which shows aspects of the invention in a schematic fashion, has been added and it is fully supported by the original specification, drawings and claims. For example see page 4 lines 6-10, and original claims 10 and 11.

The specification has been amended to add a description of Fig. 6. The added subject matter is fully supported by the original specification and drawings. For example see page 4 lines 6-10, and original claims 10 and 11.

Claims 1, 15-21 have been amended. The amendments are fully supported by the original specification, drawings and claims. With respect to claims 1, 15-17 see page 4 lines 6-10. The remaining amended claims have been broadened and do not have any added limitations.

Claims 1-9 and 11-24 were rejected as being obvious double patenting over 08/800,591 in view of Kobayashi 5,722,055. A terminal disclaimer is filed herewith thereby overcoming this rejection.

Claims 17-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph as being non-enabling. This rejection is respectfully traversed. Using a press-on/catch closure is described at page 4 lines 6-10 as being the preferred means for attaching the housings. It is also stated therein that such a connection can be used without a special tool being required. Further new Fig. 6 and its attendant description, which is not new matter and is based on the original specification, fully supports these claims. Claim 17 has been amended to point to the feature that the second housing may be fitted to the first housing without a tool by pressing it on. Note: page 7 lines 14 and 15 of the specification. One skilled in the art is full enabled by the specification and drawings to make and use the invention. Accordingly this rejection should properly be withdrawn.

Claims 1-9, 11-12, and 15-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Kobayashi. The claims as now drawn require a press-on/catch closure means which is neither taught nor suggested by Kobayashi. Accordingly these claims are not anticipated by Kobayashi and this rejection should properly be withdrawn.

Claim 13 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kobayashi in view of Takagi et al. Takagi et al do not correct the deficiencies in Kobayashi as described above. There is no disclosure, nor any suggestion whatsoever, that any of the phones disclosed in Kobayashi are intended to have user replaceable covers. Accordingly Kobayashi taken alone or in view of Takagi et al would not teach or suggest or render obvious the invention of this claim and this rejection should properly be withdrawn.

For all of the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now present in the application are clearly novel and patentable over the prior art of record, and are in proper form for allowance. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested. Should any unresolved issues remain, the Examiner is invited to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

Enclosed please find a check in the amount of $920 for a three month extension of time. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment for any fees associated with this communication or credit any over payment to Deposit Account No. 16-1350.

Respectfully submitted,

30 Jan 02

Clarence A. Green
Reg. No. 24,622

Date

Perman & Green, LLP
425 Post Road
Fairfield, CT 06430
(203) 259-1800
Customer No.: 2512

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date indicated below as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

Date: 1/30/02

Signature: Cam Nash

Person Making Deposit

Application No.: 09/125,700

Marked Up Claim(s)

1. (Twice Amended) An electronic radiotelephone comprising:

a first housing;

a second housing releasably attachable to the first housing to meet with the first housing around the periphery of the radiotelephone; and

at least one key unit for user-actuation of at least one key sensor;

retaining means comprising a cover, for holding electronic components of the radiotelephone, including said key sensor but excluding said key unit, to the first housing when the second housing is released from attachment with the first housing, said key unit being free to move with respect to the first housing when the second housing is released from attachment with the first housing and;

wherein said second housing is releasably attachable to the first housing by a press-on/catch closure so that said second housing may be fitted on to the first housing by pressing it on.

15. (Amended) An electronic radiotelephone comprising:

a back housing providing at least one key sensor;

at least one key unit for user-actuation of the at least one key sensor;

a front housing having at least one opening for receiving said at least one key unit for user-activation, and being releasable attachable to the back housing to

meet with the back housing around the periphery of the radiotelephone, and retaining means comprising a cover, holding electronic components of the radiotelephone to the back housing when the front housing is released from attachment with the back housing;

wherein when the front housing is attached to the back housing the key unit is held between the front housing and the at least one key sensor and the key unit is thereby received in the at least one opening of the front housing;

said key unit being user removable when the front housing is released from attachment with the back housing and;

wherein said front housing is releasably attachable to the back housing by a press-on/catch closure so that said front housing may be fitted on to the back housing by pressing it on.

16. (Amended) An electronic radiotelephone comprising:

a first housing;

a second housing releasable attachable to the first housing to meet with the first housing around the periphery of the radiotelephone;

at least one key unit for user-actuation of at least one key sensor; and

retaining means comprising a cover, holding electronic components of the radiotelephone to the first housing when the second housing is released from attachment with the first housing, wherein when the second housing is attached to the first housing the key unit is sandwiched between the second housing and the at least one key sensor, said key unit being free to move with respect to the

first housing when the second housing is released from attachment with the first housing and;

wherein said second housing is releasably attachable to the first housing by a press-on/catch closure so that said second housing may be fitted on to the first housing by pressing it on.

17. (Amended) An electronic radiotelephone comprising:

a first housing;

a second housing releasably attachable to the first housing to meet with the first housing around the periphery of the radiotelephone;

attachment means for attaching ~~or detaching~~ the second housing ~~from~~ to the first housing by a user without employing a tool, wherein said second housing is releasably attachable to the first housing by said attachment means which comprises a press-on/catch closure so that said second housing may be fitted on to the first housing by pressing it on;

at least one key unit for user-actuation of at least one key sensor, and retaining means comprising a cover, for holding electronic components of the radiotelephone, including said key sensor but excluding said key unit to the first housing when the second housing is released from attachment with the first housing, said key unit being free to move with respect to the first and second housings when the second housing is released from attachment with the first housing.

18. (Amended) A handheld radio communication device having electronic components connected to a carrier plate comprising:

a housing substantially enclosing the electronic components, connected to the carrier plate, ~~the housing including openings for control elements for the electronic components,~~ the housing protecting the electronic components from access by a user of the device, the housing being adapted to receive a detachable external wall element and said housing having a base portion which projects beyond the side walls of the housing and on to which the external wall element can be fitted with its free edge opposing the base portion which projects beyond the side walls, the housing further including a plurality of housing walls, including first, second and third housing walls, ~~the first housing wall having the openings arranged to receive the control elements for the electronic components~~, the external wall element at least partially covering the first, second and third housing walls and an attachment means having formations for detachably connecting to the exterior of the housing the external wall element;

a detachable external wall element adapted to overlie a portion of the housing, the external wall element being sized and shaped to at least partially cover the housing upon attachment thereto, the external wall element having a face portion with openings ~~corresponding to the housing openings~~ for the control elements, which the face portion will overlie upon attachment of the external wall element to the housing, each of the external wall element openings for the control elements being uncovered and exposed for use after attachment of the external wall element to the housing, the profile of the external wall element corresponding to the profile of the first, second and third housing walls;

~~each of the housing and the external wall element having at least one wall to create shell shaped configurations, so that when the face of the external wall element overlies the portion of the housing, the at least one wall of the external wall element overlies the at least one wall of the housing, the shell shaped~~

~~configuration of the external wall element and the shell shaped configuration of the housing correspond so that the external wall element is adapted to fit over the housing with the housing nested within the external wall element;~~

the attachment means being formed cooperatively on each of the at least one wall of the housing and the at least one wall of the external wall element for detachably connecting to the housing the external wall element, comprising a snap-in-place releasable connection; and

at least one key unit for user-actuation of at least one key sensor held by said housing, said key unit being held in place over said key sensor by said external wall element so that when said external wall element is released from attachment with the housing, said key unit is free to move with respect to the housing.

19. (Amended) A handheld radio communication device having electronic components connected to a carrier plate comprising:

a housing substantially enclosing the electronic components connected to the carrier plate, the housing including openings for control elements for the electronic components, the housing protecting the electronic components from access by a user of the device, the housing being adapted to receive a detachable external wall element and said housing having a base portion which projects beyond the side walls of the housing and on to which the external wall element can be fitted with its free edge opposing the base portion which projects beyond the side walls , the housing further including a plurality of housing walls, including first, second and third housing walls, ~~the first housing wall having the openings arranged to receive the control elements for the electronic components,~~ the external wall element at least partially covering the first, second and third housing walls and an attachment means having formations for detachably connecting to the exterior of the housing the external wall element;

a detachable external wall element adapted to overlie a portion of the housing, the external wall element being sized and shaped to at least partially cover the housing upon attachment thereto, the external wall element having a face portion with openings ~~corresponding to the housing openings~~ for the control elements, which the face portion will overlie upon attachment of the external wall element to the housing, each of the external wall element openings for the control elements being uncovered and exposed for use after attachment of the external wall element to the housing, the profile of the external wall element corresponding to the profile of the first, second and third housing walls;

~~each of the housing and the external wall element having at least one wall to create shell shaped configurations, so that when the face of the external wall element overlies the portion of the housing, the at least one wall of the external wall element overlies the at least one wall of the housing, the shell shaped configuration of the external wall element and the shell shaped configuration of the housing correspond so that the external wall element is adapted to fit over the housing with the housing nested within the external wall element;~~

the attachment means being formed cooperatively on each of the at least one wall of the housing and the at least one wall of the external wall element for detachably connecting to the housing the external wall element, said attachment means comprising a press-on/catch closure; and

at least one key unit for user-actuation of at least one key sensor held by said housing, said key unit being held in place over said key sensor by said external wall element so that when said external wall element is released from attachment with the housing, said key unit is free to move with respect to the housing.

20. (Amended) A handheld radio communication device comprising a cordless telephone as a mobile telephone having electronic components connected to a carrier plate comprising:

a housing substantially enclosing the electronic components connected to the carrier plate, ~~the housing including openings for control elements for the electronic components,~~ the housing protecting the electronic components from access by a user of the device, the housing being adapted to receive a detachable external wall element and said housing having a base portion which projects beyond the side walls of the housing and on to which the external wall element can be fitted with its free edge opposing the base portion which projects beyond the side walls , the housing further including a plurality of housing walls, including first, second and third housing walls, ~~the first housing wall having the openings arranged to receive the control elements for the electronic components,~~ the external wall element at least partially covering the first, second and third housing walls and an attachment means having formations for detachably connecting to the exterior of the housing the external wall element;

a detachable external wall element adapted to overlie a portion of the housing, the external wall element being sized and shaped to at least partially cover the housing upon attachment thereto, the external wall element having a face portion with openings ~~corresponding to the housing openings~~ for the control elements, which the face portion will overlie upon attachment of the external wall element to the housing, each of the external wall element openings for the control elements being uncovered and exposed for use after attachment of the external wall element to the housing, the profile of the external wall element corresponding to the profile of the first, second and third housing walls; and

~~each of the housing and the external wall element having at least one wall to create shell shaped configurations, so that when the face of the external wall element overlies the portion of the housing, the at least one wall of the external wall element overlies the at least one wall of the housing; and the shell shaped configuration of the external wall element and the shell shaped configuration of~~

~~the housing correspond so that the external wall element is adapted to fit over the housing with the housing nested within the external wall element;~~

the attachment means being formed cooperatively on each of the at least one wall of the housing and the at least one wall of the external wall element for detachably connecting to the housing the external wall element, comprising a snap-in-place releasable connection; and

at least one key unit for user-actuation of at least one key sensor held by said housing, said key unit being held in place over said key sensor by said external wall element so that when said external wall element is released from attachment with the housing, said key unit is free to move with respect to the housing.

21. (Amended) A hand held communication device comprising:

at least one element for input by a user and at least one element for output to the user, each one of said elements being sufficiently exposed to allow use by a user;

a housing having a housing wall with openings therethrough, comprising openings for the at least one element for input by the user and the at least one element for output to the user;

a user attachable/detachable external non-planar cover attached to and at least partially covering the housing wherein the detachability provides for user interchange with another non-planar cover thereby facilitating user modification of the external appearance of the hand held communications device, the external non-planar cover being adapted to fit over the housing ~~with the housing partially nested within the external non-planar cover~~, the cover comprising a main face having an upper surface which is exposed when the cover is attached to the housing and a side wall extending downwards, away from the upper surface of

the main face, the main face of the cover and at least portions of the side wall of the cover defining a cavity sized to receive a portion of the housing when attached thereto, the cover having said plurality of apertures therethrough to the cavity positioned over ~~and aligned with openings in~~ the housing including the opening for the at least one element for input by the user and the opening for the at least one element for output to the user, whereby each one of said input and output elements is sufficiently exposed to allow use by a user;

at least one user releasable retainer, holding the cover to the housing, formed by contact between the housing and the downwardly extending side wall of the cover, said retainer being releasable by the user without employing a tool, wherein the hand held device is fully functional when the cover is attached;

and wherein at least portions of the side wall of the external, non-planar cover terminate at a free, downwardly pointing edge and the housing has, where the housing ~~nests within the external non-planar cover,~~ upwardly facing ledge-like portions which project beyond the side wall of the housing, whereby the free downwardly pointing edge portions of the external non-planar cover oppose the projecting, upwardly facing ledge-like portions of the housing and substantially follow the contours of the projecting ledge-like portions; and

at least one key unit for user-actuation of at least one key sensor held by said housing, said key unit being held in place over said key sensor by said cover so that when said cover is released from attachment with the housing, said key unit is free to move with respect to the housing.